AIR

HEL-A- 864

~~SECRET~~
PBSUCCESS/RYBAT

23 MAY 1954

[redacted]

INFO: PBSUCCESS, Headquarters

[redacted]

LINCOLN

KUGOWN

[redacted]

Note for Wellbank

1. Request that you hand the attached note to Wellbank with instructions to return it to your files or to destroy it after he has read it and taken the action required.

[redacted]

JEROME C. DUNBAR

Attachment
JCD/EFL/a
20 May 1954
Distribution:
2 - [redacted] (w/att)
2 - [redacted] (w/att)
2 - WASH (w/att)
4 - LINC (w/att)

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE AS SANITIZED
2003

~~SECRET~~
PBSUCCESS/RYBAT

20 May 1954

1. We understand that from now on you will be responsible for subject activities instead of the rather devious way which we had to use thus far.

2. The 2 latest issues of subject newspaper which were received at this station are #17 (27 April) and #18 (4 May). Their editorial contents, as a whole, appears to fulfil our general requirements, so far as we can judge from here. We have to take exceptions, however, to the article printed in [ ] the editorial [ ] this article is a rather strong defense of the United Fruit Company against the acts of the Guatemalan government; whatever the merits of the case, in view of the almost unanimous unpopularity of the UFCO as well as of the danger that our work might be identified with "U.S. capitalist interests", we are strictly against articles of this type. If the editor wants to state that these measures of the Arbenz regime threaten to drive out foreign capital altogether, thus depriving many Guatemalan workers of their livelihood and to ask Arbenz where jobs for these men will come from, that may be all right. But an article of that type must definitely make sure that it will not be interpreted as an apology for "foreign capitalists". There was another article in [ ] which might also be interpreted as favoring domestic capitalists. Warn the editor against the implicit dangers of such articles.

3. Since [ ] is an overtly published newspaper, you will be able to derive much general editorial guidance from the daily press and radio (especially newspapers and broadcasts from Guatemala) as well as from USIA output. You are familiar with our general political and psychological program; specifically we want you to focus the editor's attention during the next few weeks upon the following general themes:

a) Agrarian Reform: Distribution of land is only a temporary measure, the final goal is collectivized agriculture (Kolkhozes and Sovkhozes), as established by the communists wherever they come to power -- the end of individual land ownership and the transformation of the campesino into a kolkhoz slave;

b) Catholicism and Communism are irreconcilable (continuing the theme opened with Archbishop Arellano's pastoral letter): while the Guatemalan communists are still careful on religious questions, they are preparing to drive religion out of the schools and to promote atheism, as communists have done the world over;

c) Guatemala is fast turning into a hemisphere-wide center of the international communist conspiracy: all Guatemalan diplomatic missions are distribution channels for communist propaganda, Guatemala is a haven for communist fugitives from many lands, the recent communist arms shipment (freighter Alfhem) -- see the daily press; Guatemalan sponsorship of the strikes in Honduras, and so forth.

We notice that [ ] is already paying adequate attention to the forthcoming Continental Congress against Soviet Intervention in Mexico City and expect that they will give the same adequate coverage to the proceedings and results of the congress itself.

4. Generally speaking, the tone and over-all attitude of the paper should become more urgent, more aggressive with every successive issue. If you need specific articles on certain topics, cable your requirements to us: our editorial team is at

present too busy to write articles just on the vague assumption that you might conceivably have use for one.

5. At least as important as the editorial contents of the paper is the question of distribution. We understand that at present only a few copies reach readers inside Guatemala (we have not received any comprehensive distribution report, with a geographi breakdown of subscribers and other recipients yet -- we should appreciate receiving one soonest). Needless to say that, unless the number of copies getting into Guatemala within the very next few weeks is substantially increased, the over-all value of the paper for our enterprise will remain rather peripheral, to put it politely. We urge you therefore to use your next contact to a detailed discussion of this distribution problem, asking to be fully briefed on the present state of affairs and impressing on the responsible person(s) the need for taking immediate steps for greatly increased shipments to Guatemala.

6. In this connection, consider the following possibilities (we are not sufficiently acquainted with the present state of border controls and other factors to decide from here which of these might be applicable):

a) Direct mailing, wrapped inside communist publications or other covers which the Guatemalan censorship would not be likely to open;

b) Bulk transportation across the border by members of [redacted] -- or, if practicable, by Salvadorans or citizens of third countries --, either legally, if border controls are not too rigid (certain old tricks, no longer feasible across better guarded borders, might still work: suitcase with double bottom; underneath a baby in a baby carriage; small packages sewn into the underclothes of a lady, or the like), or illegally;

c) Use of professional smugglers, if secure contacts can be established in short time and if payment is made only after arrival of the shipment has been confirmed from the other side.

In addition, there may be local opportunities of which we don't know yet. In any case, keep stressing that the best written and most impressively printed newspaper is of no value, especially in terms of political action, unless it reaches the readers for whom it is intended.

7. Please send us regular contact reports about all your meetings with the people with whom you are dealing as well as several copies of every issue of [redacted] and any other printed matter which subject group may issue. Send us also clippings of all articles appearing in the Salvadoran press which are somehow related to our work. We receive regularly EL DIARIO DE HOY, LA PRENSA GRAFICA and EL DIARIO LATINO -- but we require additional copies of articles which we might use. (Copies of all such reports and clippings to the home office, too.)

NUESTRO DIARIO

GUATEMALA, JUEVES 20 DE MAYO DE 1954

MIXCO

Propaganda Religiosa Usan en su Campaña los "Anticomunistas"

Desde el 13 del corriente se está distribuyendo en toda la población propaganda de la llamada "Agrupación cívica de militares guatemaltecos en exilio", en forma de periódico que llaman "La Voz del Ejército" y que, aprovechándose del sentimiento religioso del pueblo llaman a la subversión contra el Gobierno.

La volante trae arriba un escudo guatemalteco y a la derecha, en cuadro, un párrafo de la Constitución. Trae como fecha 17 de abril pasado, "año de nuestra reivindicación" y lo dirige el capitán y Br. Raúl Secaira E.

Toda la primera plana la ocupa una imagen del venerado Cristo de Esquipulas, con la siguiente leyenda: "Oh señor de Esquipulas, derrama tu santa bendición sobre nuestro sufrido pueblo, derrámala sobre nuestra amada institución, en esta hora crucial de las grandes decisiones". En la parte de atrás trae un artículo en donde mezcla, sin ningún pudor, a la religión con la política partidarista.

Una de sus partes dice: "El ejército nacional, católico en su esencia e incorruptible en su fe, recibirá complacido el homenaje que rendimos a la venerada imagen, y elevará sus preces porque Guatemala sea, liberada del comunismo, campo de paz, tierra de promisión, estrado de justicia".

La gente sensata del pueblo se pregunta: ¿Por qué el señor Arzobispo no llama la atención a estos señores, prohibiéndoles usar a la religión como arma política. ¿Por qué no se ponen estos señores a pensar que el pueblo de Guatemala es progresista y católico de verdad, pero que nunca permitirá que se usen esos medios deshonestos para conseguir fines políticos subversivos?

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